

THQ MEMO

OKS
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SECRETARY

11 FEB 1997

FOR PERSONNEL

TO: Commissioner Norman Howe
Colonel Verna Skinner
Cabinet Secretaries
Divisional Commanders
Divisional Public Relations Secretaries
Major Ray Tunstall
Lt-Colonel D Woodland
Lt-Colonel P Trigg
Major M Armstrong

FROM: John Dalziel
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

DATE: February 11, 1997

RE: BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON ALLAN SMITH

On Sunday evening 9th February, Charles Allan Smith a former Salvation Army Officer was arrested in Tasmania. He appeared in court yesterday afternoon where it was decided that he would be extradited to appear in the Perth magistrates court on Thursday 13th February at 10 am to face a charge relating to an alleged offence that occurred in 1974 of assaulting a 14 year old boy.

Allan Smith was a Captain in The Salvation Army, stationed in Western Australia at the time of the alleged offence. He retired in 1995 and is now 65 years of age.

Last April (1996) he had been arrested and bailed to appear in a Perth court on 2nd May, he absconded and as a result all rights and status as a retired officer were suspended.

Since that time The Salvation Army has not known of his whereabouts and we have sought at all times to assist the police in the pursuit of the cause of justice.

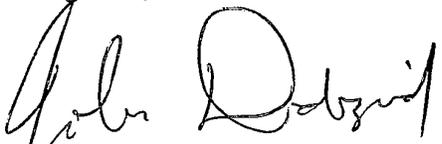
The Salvation Army is very concerned for any victims of sexual assault. Where the alleged perpetrator is a former Salvation Army Officer, we are particularly concerned to give assistance to victims.

In this case the alleged offences took place more than 20 years ago. Victims in this type of case who are still suffering from abuse so many years later are deserving of all the support the police, the courts and welfare organizations can provide.

At the moment we have no knowledge of who the victims are, what the specific charges are, when and where they are alleged to have taken place, or if Allan Smith was a Salvation Army Officer at the time of the alleged offences. We will assist the police in any way we can with enquires.

When responding to the media we want at all times to make the position outlined in this memo, clear. Where at all possible when media ask for a comment from The Salvation Army we would like them referred to myself. So far it has made front page headlines today in the Examiner and there has been an article in the Hobart Mercury and West Australian, and late night television news on the 10 Network throughout Australia yesterday.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Dalziel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D".

John Dalziel
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

JD/ac